

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Programs
Market News Branch

Website: www.ams.usda.gov/marketnews.htm

Issued Monthly

2202 Monterey St. Suite 104-F
Fresno, CA 93721
Phone: 559-487-5178 FAX: 559-487-5199
Federal Market News Service
21 North 1st Ave., Suite 224
Yakima, WA 98902
Phone: 509-575-8615 FAX: 509-575-5648

Volume XXII - Number 5

For subscription information, please call 1-800-487-8796

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 2003
IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED
- REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY -

Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated.

- CALIFORNIA** - Orange Blossom, white, \$1.45-1.65
ALL NEW CROP - Orange Blossom/Wildflower, light amber, \$1.25
- Sage, white, \$1.45-1.52
- COLORADO** - Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.47
- Alfalfa, light amber, \$1.50
- FLORIDA** - Gallberry, white, \$1.35
- Gallberry, extra light amber, \$1.45-1.50
- Gallberry, cut comb, \$1.50
ALL NEW CROP - Orange Blossom, white, \$1.55 (delayed payment)
- Orange Blossom, white & extra light amber, \$1.40-1.50
- Orange/Wildflowers, extra light amber, \$1.40
- Saw Palmetto, white & extra light amber, \$1.35 - 1.50
- Mixed Wildflowers, light amber, \$1.40
- ILLINOIS** - Clover, white, \$1.60
- MONTANA** - Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.47
- Clover, white, \$1.54 - 1.59
- Clover, light amber, \$1.35
- NEW YORK** - Floral not reported, extra light amber, \$1.47 - 1.55
- NORTH DAKOTA** - Clover, white, \$1.60
- OREGON** - Alfalfa, white, \$1.50
- Alfalfa, light amber, \$1.40
- Berries, extra light amber, \$1.50 (small lot)
- Clover, extra light amber, \$1.40
- Mixed Wildflower, light amber, \$1.40

SOUTH DAKOTA - Clover, white, \$1.57

WISCONSIN - Clover, white, \$1.55 - 1.60

Prices paid to Canadian beekeepers for unprocessed bulk honey by packers & importers in U.S. currency, f.o.b. shipping point, containers included unless otherwise stated. Duty & crossing charges extra. Cents per pound.

None Reported...

Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.

EAST COAST.....	ARGENTINA - Clover/Alfalfa, white, \$1.50 - 1.65
	ROMANIA - Mixed Flowers, extra light amber, \$1.29
	CHILE - Mixed Flowers, extra light amber, \$1.37
	CHINA - Mixed Flowers, white, \$1.30
	URUGUAY - Mixed Flowers, extra light & light amber, \$1.40
WEST COAST.....	BRAZIL - Wildflowers, light amber, \$1.20
	CHINA - Mixed Flowers, white, \$1.02 - 1.12
	MEXICO - Orange, white, \$1.50
	MEXICO - Orange, light amber, \$1.37
	THAILAND - Mixed Flowers, extra light amber, 99 cents

COLONY, HONEY PLANT & MARKET CONDITIONS DURING MAY

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT – (MD, PA, VA, WV) γγ

May was best described as cool and damp. Precipitation levels were above normal and there were more rainy days than sunny days. Bloom was terrific; however, due to the temperatures ranging mostly 10-20 degrees below normal and rainy, misty, and/or foggy days, foraging efforts were limited. The rain also resulted in nectar that was saturated with moisture. Black locust is past bloom and tulip poplar is finishing. This is late for this species. Currently clover and blackberries are in heavy bloom. Sourwood bloom is expected in the Southern District in a few weeks. Orchardists are having a difficult time sticking to spray schedules due to the almost constant rainy or misty days and soils that are saturated. Colonies numbers have increased; however, due to the diluted nectar, honey production is down. Disease and pest problems are at a minimum.

CALIFORNIA γγ

April's weather continued into May as temperatures averaged as much as 10 degrees below normal and heavy precipitation returned. On the 2nd, record totals included 1.01" in Oxnard and .42" in San Francisco. The next day, Oxnard set another record when they received another .54". Southern California was also setting records including

CALIFORNIA continued

Torrance that received 1.82", Chatsworth 1.20" and the Simi Valley recorded 1.10". The weather for the next two weeks continued to be fairly cool from the northern coast to the Sacramento Valley with temperatures as much as 12 degrees below normal. These systems also brought thunderstorms, heavy rains and hail. More normal conditions finally arrived to finish the month but there was still an occasional day of cool temperatures and rain. Bakersfield's high of 101 degrees on the 23rd was it's first triple digit heat of the year. On the 28th, Lancaster hit a record of 106 degrees. The average water equivalent of the Sierra Nevada snowpack was 26" on May 1st, according to the California Department of Water Resources, a substantial increase from the 20" on April 1st.

Beekeepers were extremely busy during May, moving bees out of most varieties of oranges and extracting honey from early crops. A few remained in the sage, buckwheat and late varieties of oranges. By the end of May, some bees were set in the valleys pollinating seed and alfalfa and melons. Others were in the hills, along the coast or rivers where they were working manzanita, bear brush, vetch and wildflowers. The orange crop is reported to be variable this year, mostly due to the weather. Some did very well and produced a good honey crop while other producers have been buying supplemental feed because the bees came out of the oranges hungry. Rain and good weather in some areas produced a good, long flow in the sage and buckwheat.

Beekeeping businesses reported they have been selling syrup to feed bees that didn't do well in the oranges. They are also being offered considerable amounts of wax as producers begin to extract early honey crops. Unfortunately, handlers still don't have much of a market for wax products and are currently only taking in small amounts of very good quality, clean wax.

Packers say they are currently being offered new crop honey but high prices have decreased their sales so they are not purchasing as much as they would ordinarily need this time of year.

FLORIDA ¶¶

Most of the major honey crop in Florida is over. Production this year was spotty with very few reports of good crops. So far production is only about 50% of what it has been for the last several years.

Currently, Mangrove is in bloom in the southern part of the state. The Chinese Tallow tree is in bloom in north Florida and bees are reported to be doing well on it. Because of this, more honey production is possible. Also in the northern part of the state, summer Ti Ti is in bloom but it is toxic to the bees so bee keepers attempt to move their bees closer to more preferable forage. Cabbage Palm is in bloom all over the state. Cabbage Palm is not known to be a surplus crop but it does keep the bees in good shape.

Honey prices are holding up well but are not as high as they were during the winter.

IDAHO ¶¶

Some beekeepers are still have colonies in holding yards while cover sprays are still being applied to some areas with aphid problems. Other areas are still have to feed hives due to lack of blooms and high winds in there production areas. Re-queening is still being done by some producers. The weather for most of May was on the cool side until the last week of the month when new record highs were set. The retail market was slow due to higher prices. The wholesale side was slow due to lack of supplies.

ILLINOIS ¶¶

Temperatures over the state, early in the month, were generally cooler than normal and precipitation was more than normal. Rainfall for the month was however, welcomed by most of the state that was dry earlier in the year. Some parts of southern Illinois received numerous rains which resulted in delayed spring planting.

ILLINOIS continued

The main floral sources were a good crop of red clover, mustard, honeysuckle and a blackberries bloom that produced a heavier than normal honey flow. Most beekeepers were installing supers by the last of the month due to collection activity.

Honey sales and the movement of wax was reported moderate. Retail sales remained steady.

INDIANA γγ

Beekeepers moved hives into fruit orchards early in the month, particularly in the southern sections where the fruit bloom has been improving over recent years. The cold weather slowed early nectar and pollen collection, however by mid-month the honey crop was very good. The State Apiary Inspector issued warnings for state beekeepers to watch hives for the presence of small hive beetle. Most beekeepers added packaged bees and queens due to a heavy kill over the winter. The State Apiary Department inspected 2000 package bees due to the beekeepers losses. Honeybees have been working dandelions, Dutch clover and a heavy nectar flow from mustard. Some wild flowers also produced bloom. The locust bloom, the first of the month, produced a good honey flow due to favorable weather for locust trees.

Bulk honey demand was fairly good. Retail sales were reported about normal for the month.

MISSISSIPPI γγ

Colonies around the state were in very good condition. The spring honey flow was in its latter stages by the close of the month with the flow somewhat below normal in the northern portion of the state due to excessive rains during the spring. In all sections of the state bees were actively gathering nectar and pollen. In the northern portion of the state sources of food were sumac, Chinese tallow trees and sourwood trees. In the southern portion of the state pollen and nectar sources were summer ti ti and Chinese tallow trees. For the month beekeepers reported moisture conditions wetter than normal in the northern portion of the state but drier than normal in the southern portion of the state with overall moisture levels still adequate.

MISSOURI, IOWA & EASTERN KANSAS γγ

Precipitation was generally much above normal for May. The rainfall delayed planting of field crops and harvest of the first cutting of Hay. Moisture conditions changed from being just barley adequate to dry at the end of April to adequate to surplus over much of the zone by the end of May. Temperatures averaged slightly below normal after being above normal during April.

Beekeepers were busy putting on supers, placing hives for pollination in the watermelon growing area of Southeast Missouri & moving bees from apple orchards in Iowa, Missouri & Kansas to the summer nectar gathering areas.

Brood rearing was still active early in the month. Bee populations are high which is desired to have the bees ready for the main honey flow. By mid-May, apple pollination was complete; Bees were starting an active pollination of melon crops, pickling cucumbers and squash.

Pollination charges for apples ranged from \$35.00-45.00 per hive. Good results were reported for tree pollination & good storages of pollen were gathered during April and a fairly good honey flow was noted for hive build up from the early spring flowers. Also, extra honey was gathered from alfalfa and clovers in hay fields where the first cutting was delayed. yellow sweet clover began blooming along Interstate 70 the weekend May 24.

Pollination charges for watermelon production will vary widely depending on how close the fields are to cotton and soybean fields. The Boll weevil eradication program makes management of bees in the cotton producing area an extra expense.

MONTANA ☾☾

Winter was not quite finished as a cold front moved across the state the third week of May bringing cold temperatures and 4.3" of snow to Great Falls. Occasional rain showers, sometimes from thunderstorms, brought additional moisture, especially to the very dry eastern section. The last few days of the month, temperatures began to warm up and many areas began to see daytime highs in the lower 80's. May finished with topsoil rated at 75% adequate & subsoil moisture at 66% adequate, considerably better than last year at the same time.

The bees are reported to be in very good condition despite the cool temperatures most of the month. They were able to collect some nectar and pollen from dandelions and the yellow clover was just beginning to bloom the end of the month.

NEW ENGLAND ☾☾

Nectar and pollen is flowing well even though the month of May was much cooler and wetter than normal. The last of the replacement bees have been installed although it may take most of the season to build those hives up again. Foul Brood occurred in a few hives.

Some beekeepers moved their hives into the orchards; while others moved theirs into fields to get ready for the strawberries and blueberry season. At the moment dandelions, buckthorn, a variety of fruit trees including apple and cherry, and an assortment of spring flowers are blossoming.

NORTH CAROLINA ☾☾

The month of May was a wet one. Even though the five year drought has been declared officially over in North Carolina, there are still concerns. The Drought Council is still cautioning the public to conserve water, due to the possibility of conditions tipping back into a drought situation. Most areas have received a substantial amount of rain. In the first four months of the year, the Triangle area received 16 inches of rainfall and normal for that period is 13.5 inches.

Beekeepers have restocked hives and they are in good shape. However, due to the wet rainy condition, honey flow is down considerably compared to normal. The nectar is being washed out and the bees are not able to get flight time. Another situation that is plaguing the foothills and the mountains is the 17 year locust, which is causing damage to the trees. The spring crop is virtually gone and the sourwood flow in the mountains should begin about June 28.

OHIO ☾☾

May was very wet and cool, despite that the colonies repopulated quickly. Swarming was intense all around the state. This was fairly surprising since the colonies had suffered huge losses over the winter. The bees were very productive with lots of nectar reported. Pests were not seen as a major problem.

OREGON ☾☾

Cool temperatures and rainy conditions continued through the first three weeks of May. Temperatures ranged from 2-8 degrees below normal and many areas are over 100% of normal precipitation. Snow was even reported in some areas around the 12th & 13th. Conditions warmed to end the month but rain was still often reported. Eastern Oregon began reporting temperatures in the 90's by the end of May and Malheur County rose to nearly 100 degrees.

OREGON continued

Apples, pears, blueberries, raspberries and blackberries were in full bloom the first of May but cool, windy weather sometimes hampered pollination and some bees came out of the orchards hungry. By the end of the month, crimson clover was past bloom but vetch, yellow clover and alfalfa were still providing a good pollen and nectar source. Beekeepers reported their hives are full of large bees and good sized colonies.

UTAH γγ

The weather for most of the month of May was on the cool side which as put blooms behind and therefore making it necessary to keep feeding the hives. Some keepers are going back through the hives making sure they have a viable queen. Retail sales have remained slow due mostly to higher prices.

WASHINGTON γγ

May weather was fairly unpredictable in Western Washington. The first two weeks were mostly dry with only an occasional shower to disrupt field activities. Temperatures ranged from 2-5 degrees below. Around the 15th, a storm dropped down from Alaska bringing thunder, lightning, heavy rains, hail and cool temperatures. Several locations reported nighttime temperatures that dropped slightly below freezing. Spring returned to finish the month with mostly sunny days and daytime highs in the 70's to low 80's. Bees are reported to be in excellent condition as the cool, rainy weather brought out many floral sources a little later than normal.

The first part of May, raspberries and strawberries along with fruit and ornamental trees were blooming. Scotch broom was also beginning to cover open fields and along roadways along with commercial blueberry fields and along roadways along with commercial blueberry fields the end of the month.

The weather in Central and Eastern Washington was not much different that on the west side and some areas ever received more rain. For three weeks, conditions were mostly cool and wet and some areas received some hail. Temperatures ranged as much as 9 degrees below normal causing some fruit growers to use frost protection. Temperatures began to warm the end of the month with daytime highs getting into the 80's and low 90's. Occasional rain showers were still reported and on the 30th, Spokane set a record when they received 1.08" Many plants were blooming during May beginning with apples and dandelions. As the weather improved, people began to fill their yards with ornamental plants and trees. Locust and evergreen trees also provided a good pollen and nectar source along with alfalfa until the first cutting was made. By the end of May, many wild plants such as hawthorn were in full bloom.

Some commercial beekeepers reported a good spring honey flow but they honey was left in the hives for feed as many were being taken to North and South Dakota. The bees are reported to be in good condition as they came out of spring pollination. Bee populations were strong and some boxes were filling up causing a few reports of swarming.

WISCONSIN γγ

Temperatures for the month of May were generally colder than normal over the state. Precipitation was generally heavier than normal in most areas. The first half of the month, rain and cold temperatures slowed much of the spring planting and honeybee collection activity. The last of the month, honeybees began collection and beekeepers began to install supers. Main pollen source was locust and also some potato bloom. Precipitation and warmer temperatures the last of the month aided wild cherry and dandelion bloom.

The State Apiary Department received a few swarming calls during the month as hive boxes filled with honey and pollen.

Bulk honey and wax sales were good. Demand at retail was reported moderate.

U. S. EXPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION, QUANTITY & VALUE

	<u>M A R C H</u> <u>2 0 0 3</u>		<u>Y E A R T O D A T E</u> <u>2 0 0 3</u>	
	QUANTITY	VALUE	QUANTITY	VALUE
	Kilograms	Dollars	Kilograms	Dollars
COMB HONEY & HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE ----- DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE				
Mexico	3,110	3,433	3,110	3,433
Northern Antilles	2,478	8,761	2,478	8,761
United Kingdom	---	---	816	3,000
Netherlands	---	---	1,009	3,665
Germany	---	---	1,824	5,507
Kuwait	60,153	78,904	85,257	149,328
Saudi Arabia	---	---	79,775	127,353
Arab Emirates	61,109	80,157	115,170	151,070
Malaysia	---	---	7,385	9,686
Philippines	---	---	7,666	20,360
China	---	---	826	2,860
Korean Republic	---	---	113,668	149,100
Hong Kong	---	---	3,493	15,395
Taiwan	---	---	3,035	8,879
Japan	1,990	3,570	36,428	48,741

TOTAL	128,840	174,825	461,940	707,138
-------	---------	---------	---------	---------

HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED ----- DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE				
Canada	62,990	138,110	146,510	305,516
Bermuda	---	---	811	4,063
Bahamas	---	---	2,318	11,376
Jamaica	2,268	8,799	2,268	8,799
Barbados	708	8,712	2,322	8,712
Aruba	---	---	3,030	11,812
Chile	1,723	8,966	1,723	8,966
Singapore	1,315	6,364	1,315	6,364
Indonesia	16,819	46,800	33,638	92,520
China	2,258	5,783	7,516	19,252
Korean Republic	1,769	7,059	12,756	30,199
Japan	---	---	15,876	45,619
TOTAL	89,850	224,891	228,591	547,686

HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED ----- FOREIGN MERCHANDISE				
Canada	1,712	2,727	1,712	2,727
Costa Rica	---	---	18,600	31,620
Indonesia	---	---	37,200	37,200
TOTAL	1,712	2,727	57,512	71,547

U. S. IMPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY, QUANTITY AND VALUE

COUNTRY	M A R C H 2003			Y E A R T O D A T E 2003		
	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	C.I.F. VALUE dollars	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	C.I.F. VALUE dollars
NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - WHITE						
Canada	365,301	1,262,156	1,276,207	1,475,147	5,040,200	5,080,901
Mexico	---	---	---	32,118	90,027	92,048
Peru	3,480	5,220	5,506	3,480	5,220	5,506
Chile	881,530	2,323,103	2,391,947	1,510,519	3,090,010	4,035,472
Brazil	269,653	687,759	717,722	788,777	1,943,763	2,049,713
Uruguay	171,456	454,555	462,169	171,456	454,555	462,169
Argentina	458,332	1,058,680	1,108,314	1,022,669	2,351,751	2,458,778
United Kingdom	---	---	---	5,326	15,582	16,145
Germany	18,000	36,360	37,800	18,000	36,360	37,800
Czech Republic	---	---	---	31,070	82,236	86,636
Hungary	36,000	91,620	94,500	36,000	91,620	94,500
Russia	---	---	---	348	2,018	2,305
Ukraine	---	---	---	16,128	28,868	31,851
Romania	---	---	---	48,274	125,122	131,783
Turkey	1,627	5,616	5,832	37,627	79,616	83,232
India	53,460	68,564	73,609	53,460	68,564	73,609
Vietnam	---	---	---	75,400	163,605	174,207
China, Mainland	436,220	674,227	713,936	622,772	848,568	896,492
TOTAL	2,695,059	6,667,860	6,887,522	5,948,571	15,336,785	15,813,147

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - EXTRA LIGHT AMBER

Canada	53,011	179,464	181,970	68,118	225,460	228,`83
Mexico	19,754	52,632	53,680	70,101	186,955	191,278
Chile	120,003	309,437	318,818	230,709	592,224	613,716
Brazil	56,700	132,111	138,085	211,650	437,969	458,195
Uruguay	59,115	163,564	167,764	98,803	262,922	269,507
Argentina	126,229	287,497	301,818	169,357	392,185	410,915
Austria	---	---	---	460	3,507	3,574
Turkey	---	---	---	40,776	85,825	90,141
India	337,800	724,110	750,555	468,000	993,095	1,031,830
Vietnam	136,704	242,988	255,703	136,704	242,988	255,703
China	40,392	63,104	63,744	138,992	163,781	172,204
Australia	---	---	---	18,000	54,660	57,160
Egypt	---	---	---	100,000	165,000	175,155
TOTAL	949,708	2,154,907	2,232,137	1,751,670	3,806,571	3,957,561

IMPORTS continued**NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - LIGHT AMBER**

Canada	---	---	---	12,156	38,361	38,557
Mexico	325,979	877,106	901,950	601,708	1,542,742	1,583,198
Dom. Republic	---	---	---	898	2,640	2,736
Peru	148,191	265,034	277,971	425,966	933,091	872,966
Chile	768,666	1,958,049	2,019,523	1,164,109	2,941,997	3,032,701
Brazil	232,281	531,232	556,379	916,849	2,137,858	2,235,866
Uruguay	432,801	1,055,768	1,078,760	860,377	2,080,537	2,134,771
Argentina	20,133	50,635	52,490	102,495	249,253	259,243
Denmark	---	---	---	12,096	51,710	55,560
France	---	---	---	1,040	4,420	4,634
Germany	20,014	85,085	116,315	63,889	198,853	267,159
Ukraine	18,100	36,017	38,007	92,404	197,960	210,085
Moldova	18,906	39,403	40,270	90,360	188,547	195,448
Italy	889	2,168	2,384	889	2,168	2,384
Romania	113,023	247,259	261,589	39,387	794,967	832,982
Bulgaria	56,550	121,584	130,977	207,840	441,132	475,646
Turkey	95,847	227,134	238,869	605,171	1,372,877	1,467,499
India	243,840	508,622	541,122	373,340	741,603	799,142
Pakistan	636	2,044	2,273	636	2,044	2,273
Thailand	---	---	---	52,200	126,324	131,456
Vietnam	380,469	732,287	773,402	655,219	1,254,430	1,332,083
Malaysia	342,700	449,305	501,516	486,700	643,831	714,307
China	1,003,318	1,564,507	1,669,572	1,824,436	2,759,636	2,950,906
Burkina	---	---	---	19,095	38,190	41,356
TOTAL	4,222,983	8,753,239	9,203,369	8,909,310	18,645,171	19,642,958

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE – NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED

Canada	20,182	43,944	44,244	42,398	97,213	98,567
Mexico	386,824	957,471	960,521	609,914	1,462,999	1,468,099
Dom. Republic	51,240	27,000	32,375	65,388	52,000	58,633
Peru	2,320	3,480	3,670	2,320	3,480	3,670
Chile	95,356	250,604	259,248	95,356	250,604	259,248
Brazil	98,209	214,377	226,277	314,744	731,410	760,994
Uruguay	19,299	46,802	48,327	38,929	93,264	95,381
Argentina	---	---	---	10,198	31,881	33,387
France	---	---	---	861	4,285	4,497
Austria	1,042	6,380	6,654	3,562	21,817	24,214
Switzerland	1,997	14,050	14,368	4,933	34,936	35,989
Ukraine	---	---	---	5,046	8,075	9,140
Italy	---	---	---	330	3,380	3,683
Greece	393	2,680	2,853	393	2,680	2,853
India	93,000	207,390	252,390	93,000	207,390	252,390
Vietnam	96,060	170,612	181,770	96,060	170,612	181,770
Taiwan	---	---	---	20,945	19,972	22,526
Australia	9,969	41,623	44,204	9,969	41,623	44,204
TOTAL	875,891	1,986,413	2,076,901	1,414,346	3,237,621	3,359,245

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
FOREIGN TRADE DIVISION